Kendriya Vidyalayas in M.P.

†1743. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts of Madhya Pradesh where no Kendriya Vidyalayas are existing;

(b) the names of districts where new Kendriya Vidyalayas are likely to be opened in the next year; and

(c) what action has been taken so far to start Kendriya Vidyalaya in Vidisha and by when this Vidyalaya is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Kendriya Vidyalayas are normally not opened district-wise. At present there are 90 schools in the State. As per available information the districts of Datia, East Nimar, Mandla, Panna, Raisen, Shajapur, Tikamgarh and Vidisha do not have Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to open any new Kendriya Vidyalaya due to budgetary constraints.

Common entrance examination for engineering and technical institutes

1744. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a common entrance examination for admission to engineering and technical institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the proposed scheme includes medical and scientific courses also and if no, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of students seeking admission to professional institutions in the field of Tech. Education is increasing year by year. Lakhs of Students appear in the entrance tests conducted by various Institutes, State Governments and other such agencies all over the country each year. Multiplicity of entrance examinations has put tremendous strain & trauma on students along with their parents. It has also resulted in unlimited duplication of work and non-optimisation of resources for conduct of such examinations. Candidates from rural areas and small towns have been the worst sufferers. Keeping this in view, it has been proposed by this Ministry to organise a common entrance test at National level called "NEST". The test is likely to be conducted some time in Jan., 2001.

(c) For the present, it is proposed to cover admissions to engineering Colleges and courses in architecture.

Criteria to open Central Schools

1745. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Central Schools running in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) what is the criteria for opening of new Central Schools in civilian, cantonment areas and for public sector employees;

(c) how many new Central Schools are proposed to be opened and at what places during 2000 and 2001; and

(d) whether Government are considering to open new schools in the National Capital Region *viz.* Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh and Faridabad, in the light of increasing population in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) A total number of 869 Kendriya Vidyalayas are running in the country as on date as per State-wise details enclosed in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened primarily with the objective of catering to the educational needs of the children of transferable Central